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Sport for Development and Peace

Sport for Development and Peace: the way forward

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

The present report is submitted pursuant to General Assembly resolution 60/9 of 3 November 2005, by which the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to elaborate an action plan that would expand and strengthen United Nations partnerships with Governments, sport-related organizations and the private sector. The Action Plan is based on an assessment of progress achieved, steps taken and difficulties encountered in realizing the potential of sport as a tool for development and peace.

The report reviews the achievements of the International Year of Sport and Physical Education 2005, and the broad range of activities, initiatives and networking carried out in countries worldwide, under the leadership of the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Sport for Development and Peace. It also describes activities by Member States, the United Nations system and other stakeholders to build on the momentum generated by the International Year.

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I. Introduction and background

1. The present report is submitted in accordance with General Assembly resolution 60/9 of 3 November 2005, by which the Assembly requested that the Secretary-General report on the implementation of the resolution and on the events organized at the national, regional and international levels to celebrate the International Year of Sport and Physical Education 2005.

2. In his report entitled "Sport for Peace and Development: International Year of Sport and Physical Education" (A/60/217), the Secretary-General described the broad range of activities, initiatives and networking under way and planned worldwide to commemorate the International Year. The present report summarizes the significant achievements of the Year and indicates steps taken to maintain that momentum.

3. In the 2005 World Summit Outcome world leaders stated: "We underline that sports can foster peace and development and can contribute to an atmosphere of tolerance and understanding, and we encourage discussions in the General Assembly for proposals leading to a plan of action on sport and development." (General Assembly resolution 60/1 para. 145.)

4. By resolution 60/9, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General "to elaborate an action plan that will expand and strengthen United Nations partnerships with Governments, sport-related organizations and the private sector, on the basis, inter alia, of an assessment of progress achieved, steps taken and difficulties encountered in realizing the potential of sport as a tool for development and peace". The present report responds to that request and presents an Action Plan on Sport for Development and Peace (see chap. VI).

II. Institutional arrangements

5. The commemoration of the International Year was guided by the United Nations Office for the International Year of Sport and Physical Education. The Office was approved by the Secretary-General in December 2003 and was set up in May 2004. No financial request was made to the United Nations for the establishment of the Office; rather, its success has been dependent on the determination and will of all partners involved, on the financial assistance of the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, following the establishment of a trust fund by the United Nations Fund for International Partnerships (UNFIP), and on the support in kind of the United Nations Office at Geneva and UNFIP. The Office for the International Year worked in close coordination with the Geneva and New York offices of Sport for Development and Peace, under the leadership of the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Sport for Development and Peace. After the Office for the International Year completed its work in December 2005, the Office of the Special Adviser continued to build on the momentum of the Year, advocating for the power of sport as a means to promote education, health, development and peace in pursuit of the Millennium Development Goals.

6. The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) played a key role during the International Year as the lead agency for sport-related issues in the United Nations system, convening Governments to advance the cause of sport and physical education and to raise awareness about

physical education and sport as a means to promote quality education in achieving education for all, social development and peace.

7. The United Nations Communications Group Working Group on Sport for Development and Peace, formed in January 2005 under the leadership of the United Nations New York Office of Sport for Development and Peace, constitutes an essential forum to foster communication and collaboration within the United Nations system and among partners to advance the use of sport in development policies and programmes and in peacebuilding. The inter-agency Working Group played an important role in promoting commemoration of the International Year. Building on the 2003 report of the United Nations Inter-Agency Task Force on Sport for Development and Peace,[1] the Working Group published a business plan in June 2005, aiming to provide the United Nations system with a blueprint for promoting more systematic and coherent use of Sport for Development and Peace activities, especially in conjunction with efforts to achieve the Millennium Development Goals by 2015. Following the request by the General Assembly in resolution 60/9, the business plan was distributed to Member States and many partners.

III. Commemoration of the International Year of Sport and Physical Education 2005

8. Under the leadership of the Special Adviser, countless activities commemorating the International Year were held around the globe and many included practical initiatives to advance Sport for Development and Peace. Through conferences, seminars, workshops, and special sports events, the United Nations and its partners in Government, the world of sport, civil society, the media, academia and other sectors sought to educate and instil the positive values of sport across the globe. These worldwide efforts in the lead-up to and during the Year produced a number of positive results:

(a) Sport is a stronger partner in development as the Year highlighted the significant role that sport can play in achieving the Millennium Development Goals and provided momentum to efforts to mainstream sport into existing development and peace programmes by offering innovative approaches, in combination with existing efforts, to accomplish specific targets such as those concerning poverty reduction, education, gender equality, and HIV/AIDS. Many of the activities generated during 2005 are to be integrated into regular programmes;

(b) "Sport for all" is better recognized as a national priority in many countries;

(c) Sport and physical education are recognized as international priorities, and many countries increased their involvement in sports and physical education projects that contribute to education, health, development and peace in developing countries;

(d) Sport, physical education and physical activity are recognized for the important role they play in improving public health;

[1] Available at http://www.un.org/themes/sport/reportE.pdf.

(e) A significant achievement during the Year is the unanimous adoption of the International Convention against Doping in Sport by the UNESCO General Conference at its thirty-third session, on 19 October 2005;

(f) The Year has increased recognition of the potential of sport, as a universal language, to bridge social, religious, ethnic and gender divides, hence contributing to lasting peace;

(g) Sport demonstrated that it can contribute to a powerful synergy to raise public awareness and mobilize support and resources, and sport organizations and sporting goods providers embraced the multi-stakeholder approach advocated during the Year;

(h) Sport was successfully used as a mobilizing force to raise resources for relief activities for natural disasters such as the Southeast Asian tsunami in 2004 and the earthquake in Pakistan in 2005;

(i) The International Year was a springboard for launching new and strengthening existing programmes using sport and physical education to achieve internationally recognized development goals such as the Millennium Development Goals.

National dynamics during the International Year

9. Action at the country level in coordinating and publicizing commemorative activities is testimony to the success of the International Year. National focal points have been established in 70 countries, including in Albania, Algeria, Australia, Austria, Bahrain, Belarus, Bhutan, Bolivia, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Canada, the Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, Colombia, the Comoros, Cuba, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, India, Israel, Latvia, Lebanon, Malawi, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Nauru, the Netherlands, New Zealand, the Niger, Norway, Paraguay, the Philippines, Poland, Qatar, the Russian Federation, Samoa, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Tuvalu, the United Arab Emirates, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Vanuatu and Zambia. The valuable contribution of United Nations information centres and United Nations resident coordinators in assisting in identification of a significant number of national focal points is recognized.

10. Beyond countries which established national focal points, over 55 other countries from all regions have been active. These include initiatives undertaken in: Afghanistan, Argentina, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Benin, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Burundi, China, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Denmark, El Salvador, Egypt, Hungary, Indonesia, Ireland, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Italy, Iraq, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Liechtenstein, Madagascar, Malaysia, Mali, Montenegro, Nepal, Nigeria, Pakistan, Peru, the Philippines, Romania, Rwanda, Saint Lucia, Saudi Arabia, Serbia, Slovakia, Somalia, Timor-Leste, the Holy See, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago , Uganda, Ukraine, the United Republic of Tanzania, the United States of America, Uzbekistan, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen and Zimbabwe.

11. All countries are encouraged to continue activities beyond the Year to help to develop and implement sustainable sporting and physical education programmes and policies designed to respond to the specific needs and conditions of their communities.

International dynamics during the International Year

12. A number of United Nations funds, programmes, and specialized agencies used the Year to highlight and encourage the use of sport in international development programmes and projects, and the United Nations system has a lead role in policy dialogue on strategic and global levels. A series of international conferences was organized in relation with national efforts to commemorate the Year on the initiative of the Special Adviser:

- International Conference on Sport and Health (Hammamet, Tunisia, 22-24 March 2005)
- International Conference on Sport and Peace (Moscow, 3-5 October 2005)
- International Conference on Sport and Education (Bangkok, 30 October-2 November 2005)
- Second Conference on Sport and Development (Magglingen, Switzerland, 4-6 December 2005).

13. A further 20 international and 18 regional conferences were also held during the Year, which addressed issues essential to promoting the positive values of sport, including:

- International Forum on Sports and Development, Economy, Culture and with the theme "Ethics" (Bad-Boll, Germany, 13-15 February 2005)
- Round table on the Response of the World of Sport to the Indian Ocean Tsunami (Geneva, Switzerland, 14 April 2005)
- Arafura Games International Sport Conference Celebrating Sport and Culture (Darwin, Australia, 13-15 May 2005)
- Next Step II Conference — Taking Sport for Development Home (Livingstone, Zambia, 10-13 June 2005)
- Sport Summit for the Environment (Aichi/Nagoya, Japan, 30 and 31 July 2005)
- International Summit: Effecting Social Change Through Women's Leadership in Sport (Atlanta, Georgia, 20-22 October 2005)
- Sixth International Olympic Committee World Conference on Sport and Environment (Nairobi, 9-11 November 2005)
- Second World Summit on Physical Education (Magglingen, Switzerland, 2 and 3 December 2005).

14. Conference outcome documents and the results of the Year were presented at the Second Magglingen Conference on Sport and Development. This culminating event of the Year was organized by the Swiss Federal Office of Sport and the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, in close cooperation with the Office of

the Special Adviser and attended by participants from 70 countries. A Call to Action was adopted, urging stakeholders to carry the momentum of the Year well into the future by actively using sport and promoting Sport for Development and Peace in their respective fields.

15. Sporting events commemorating the International Year were organized around the globe. Global communications and public-awareness activities during the Year included various tools, the creation of a United Nations website (www.un.org/sport2005) and a number of national websites dedicated to the Year; an introductory film; a fortnightly United Nations Sport Bulletin in English, Spanish and French; and an international *Toolkit: Sport for Development* available in CD-ROM and online was promoted and distributed. An unprecedented level of media attention was accorded to the issue of sport and physical education for development and peace during the Year.

16. Following the launching of the Year on 5 November 2004, the Special Adviser appointed Roger Federer, a top-ranked tennis star, and Margaret Okayo, a marathon champion, as spokespersons to promote the objectives of the Year. He also appointed the national cricket teams of India and Pakistan as spokespersons in recognition of their efforts in overcoming regional tension and encouraging peaceful relations.

17. The commemorative efforts undertaken during the Year particularly took into account certain negative aspects facing athletes, including child labour, violence, doping, early specialization, over-training and exploitative forms of commercialization, as well as less visible threats and deprivations, such as the premature severance of family bonds and the loss of sporting, social and cultural ties.

18. The International Year highlighted the importance of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and the private sector in moving forward sport and physical education as tools for the promotion of education, health, development and peace. Governmental organizations in the field of development cooperation using sport and physical education as a tool for development and peace played an outstanding role, particularly those in Austria, Brazil, Canada, Finland, Germany, the Netherlands, Norway, Switzerland and the United Kingdom. The Year proved that international sports federations and organizations such as the International Olympic Committee, the International Football Federation (FIFA) and the International Paralympic Committee, are increasingly willing to become involved in humanitarian actions.

19. The Special Adviser's Final Report on the International Year summarizes its activities and the achievements and was presented to the Secretary-General and the President of the General Assembly at a special event at the United Nations on 3 April 2006, supported by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation. The report, distributed to Member States and many partners, is available at www.un.org/sport2005. A comprehensive book on the International Year prepared by the Office of the Special Adviser will be launched during the sixty-first session of the General Assembly.

IV. The way forward

20. At the presentation of the Final Report on the International Year, the Secretary-General stated: "Our task now is to take our mission to the next stage ... and make sport an essential component of our efforts to reach the world's development goals." He concluded that the Year had charted a course for action and implementation, and that its momentum must be maintained. In this spirit, Member States, the United Nations system and other actors have initiated a number of activities.

A. Activities reported by Member States

21. To assist in preparation of the Action Plan, the Secretary-General circulated a note verbale dated 7 July 2006 to Member States requesting information on lessons learned from the International Year, obstacles encountered in national efforts to implement Sport for Development and Peace initiatives, and how sport-related activities have incorporated into strategies to achieve the Millennium Development Goals and difficulties encountered. The note verbale also asked how sport had been utilized as a tool for conflict prevention and building sustainable peace, what difficulties had been encountered, and how partnerships with sport-related organizations, the private sector and other partners could be strengthened to make better use of sport as a tool for development and peace. As at 15 September 2006, information was received from: Australia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bolivia, Burkina Faso, Chile, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Germany, Kazakhstan, Maldives, Mali, Mauritius, Monaco, the Netherlands, Nicaragua, Qatar, the Russian Federation, Saint Lucia, Saudi Arabia, Serbia, Thailand, Tunisia, the United Arab Emirates, and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela. It is emphasized that information in the present section is based only on those replies, presenting a sample of activities by Member States to build on the momentum of the International Year.

National Sport for Development and Peace activities

22. The replies show that a number of countries have established national laws, policies or strategies that advance Sport for Development and Peace and indicate their intentions to follow up on the International Year, including Belarus, Bolivia, the Czech Republic, Kazakhstan, Mauritius, Nicaragua, Qatar, the Russian Federation, Thailand, the United Arab Emirates, and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela. Australia, Germany and the Netherlands have incorporated sport into development cooperation activities.

Lessons learned and obstacles encountered

23. The lessons learned from efforts to implement Sport for Development and Peace initiatives reported by countries include the need for:

(a) Community ownership and sustainability rather than "one-off" projects;

(b) Sustainable strategies by Governments in development cooperation on sport;

(c) Adequate resources for Sport for Development and Peace initiatives;

(d) Reversal of the priority given to elite sport rather than community sport activities;

(e) Greater collaboration between Government, sports organizations, the private sector and NGOs;

(f) Sport organizations to promote professionalism in sport instruction;

(g) Emphasis on the value of physical education in improving health, holistic development, peace and national harmony;

(h) International organizations to help countries to improve participation in sport;

(i) Agreements to provide help countries to gain expertise and share of experience;

(j) More physical education teachers and sport instructors.

24. Obstacles encountered include:

(a) A lack of adequate resources, and in some cases competition among stakeholders for limited funding;

(b) Insufficient monitoring and evaluation to gauge the effectiveness of programmes;

(c) A lack of awareness of the positive benefits of sport to encourage greater public participation;

(d) The negative impact of electronic games, Internet facilities, and virtual amusements on youth participation in sport;

(e) The increasing costs of participating in sport and excessive focus on sport for the talented;

(f) Regional imbalances in sport programmes;

(g) In schools, a lack of capacity among teachers and principals to introduce effective physical education curricula, and a lack of sports and physical education infrastructure.

Integration of sport into strategies to achieve the Millennium Development Goals

25. A number of replies indicated that sport contributes to the overall pursuit of the Millennium Development Goals, and others more broadly endorsed the role of sport in fostering development, including Azerbaijan, Bolivia, the Czech Republic, the Netherlands, Saint Lucia, Tunisia and the United Arab Emirates. Replies received also indicated sport activities that contribute to the achievement of specific Goals.

Goal 1: Eradicate poverty

26. Bolivia and Burkina Faso seek to create new economic and employment opportunities through sport. Germany assists projects for at-risk children in several countries. Monaco assists two countries with sport programmes, and plans participation in a United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) sport programme for at-risk youth in slum areas.

Goal 2: Achieve universal primary education

27. Azerbaijan uses sport events for school children to promote interest in education. The South Pacific Sport Programme of Australia encourages children in Pacific Island countries to stay in school. Burkina Faso plans to include physical education in primary and secondary school. Kazakhstan makes physical education in school a priority, and Mauritius includes physical education and sport in school activities. Nicaragua is improving the quality of physical education, and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela launched a national campaign in 2004 for physical education in schools. Tunisia will make physical education in schools compulsory by 2009, and Thailand includes physical education in schools in its "sport for all" strategy for 2005-2008.

Goal 3: Promote gender equality and empower women

28. In Azerbaijan, sport activities are a part of the national policy on gender equality. The assistance of Australia to a sport programme in the region facilitates women's inclusion. Sport organizations in Burkina Faso are increasingly including competitions for women. Sport policies of the Czech Republic sport promote gender equality. Germany has supported sport programmes for girls in Afghanistan. Mauritius has a school programme to encourage girls to practice sport, and Tunisia recognizes women's right to participate in sport as a part of its "sport for all" policy.

Goal 4: Reduce child mortality

29. The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela includes physical activities in programmes to promote child health.

Goal 5: Improve maternal health

30. Physical activity for maternal health is a part of the national sport programme in the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela.

Goal 6: Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases

31. Australia assists sport programmes in several countries that deliver HIV/AIDS prevention messages. Sport is used in Burkina Faso to promote HIV/AIDS awareness. The Netherlands assists projects of the NGO Right to Play and coach-to-coach projects that teach HIV/AIDS prevention in a number of countries. The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela uses sport in a programme to prevent the spread of infectious diseases, including HIV/AIDS.

Goal 7: Ensure environmental sustainability

32. The Burkina Faso National Olympic and Sport Committee carried out a tree-planting project to combat desertification.

Goal 8: Develop a global partnership for development

33. Australia, Germany and the Netherlands use sport in development cooperation to help achieve the Millennium Development Goals. The Burkina Faso Ministry of Sport and Leisure, and sport federations, cooperate with partners from the north and south. Nicaragua and Thailand use sport as part of regional development efforts.

34. Replies also indicate other positive contributions of sport, including in programmes to assist refugee and internally displaced children, promote social integration, assist recovery from natural disasters, aid national campaigns against smoking and drug addiction, and for inclusion of people with disabilities. A difficulty encountered was the challenge to ensure that sport programmes are of the highest quality and adapted to communities' needs.

Sport for peacebuilding and conflict prevention

35. Replies indicate that many countries view sport as a valuable tool in efforts to strengthen national unity and solidarity among regions and population groups, including Azerbaijan, Bolivia, Burkina Faso, Chile, Croatia, Germany, Kazakhstan, Mauritius, Monaco, the Netherlands, Nicaragua, Saint Lucia, Tunisia, Thailand, the United Arab Emirates and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela. Sport is also seen as contributing to international peacebuilding and conflict prevention. Difficulties encountered were the need to evaluate programme effectiveness, and the mobilization of funds.

Strengthening partnerships

36. A number of replies indicate the vital role of partnerships with sports organizations, private sector partnerships and other organizations can play to make better use of sport as a tool for development and peace. These countries are Australia, Azerbaijan, Bolivia, Burkina Faso, Germany, Mauritius, the Netherlands, Saint Lucia, Thailand, Tunisia and the United Arab Emirates.

B. International activities and initiatives

37. The Sport for Development and Peace International Working Group, whose members include representatives of national Governments from the global north and south, the United Nations system and civil society organizations, issued a preliminary report in June 2006[2] examining diverse national approaches to Sport for Development and Peace. The report encourages its country members "to harness and integrate the tremendous power of sport into broader national development and peace strategies". The report analyses current Sport for Development and Peace practices in 13 countries: Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Brazil, Canada, Ghana, the Netherlands, Norway, Sierra Leone, Switzerland, the United Republic of Tanzania, the United Kingdom, and Zambia. Among the report's key findings are the need to position sport as a low-cost, high-impact tool to achieve development aims, in particular the Millennium Development Goals, and that sport and physical activity programmes need to be inclusive, with universal access promoted, including for women and girls and people with disabilities. The report also found evidence of strong momentum among developing countries in favour of Sport for Development and Peace.

38. The Secretary-General, with his Special Adviser, met for the first time with the leaders of the International Olympic Committee in January 2006 to strengthen cooperation in using sport as a tool to reduce tension in areas of conflict. It was agreed that the United Nations system should cooperate with national Olympic

[2] *Sport for Development and Peace: from Practice to Policy*, available at http://www.iwg.sportanddev.org.

Committees to ensure that sport is incorporated to a greater degree in educational curricula. The International Olympic Committee collaborates with several United Nations agencies, including UNAIDS on HIV/AIDS awareness and prevention activities; the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) on a "Green Games" project for environmentally sustainable Olympics; the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) on sports equipment and activities for refugee camps; and with the International Labour Organization (ILO) on youth sport programmes in Albania, El Salvador and Mozambique.

39. Noting the call by the General Assembly in its resolution 60/8 of 3 November 2005, for observance of the Olympic Truce during the 2006 Winter Games in Turin, a message from the Secretary-General of 10 February 2006 urged that athletes participating in the Games be afforded safe passage, and that all engaged in hostilities respect the truce.

40. The Special Adviser is cooperating with the Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations in a partnership with the IOC begun in 2006 to involve national Olympic Committees and other sport organizations in countries where the Department for Peacekeeping Operations has missions in sport for peacebuilding activities with other United Nations partners. In the first initiative, United Nations peacekeepers and the International Olympic Committee held Peace Games in Kinshasa, in August 2006. Similar events are planned in other parts of the country, and in Liberia and Côte d'Ivoire. A number of peacekeeping missions use sports activities, according an inventory initiated by the Special Adviser and the Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations.

41. The United Nations Environment Programme worked closely with the International Olympic Committee and the Turin Olympic Organizing Committee to make the 2006 Winter Olympic Games environmentally sustainable. For example, the HEritage Climate TORino (HECTOR) project was designed to make the Games carbon neutral by supporting forestry, energy efficiency and renewable energy schemes to offset the estimated 100,000 tons of carbon dioxide generated during the Games. UNEP has entered into a similar partnership with the Beijing Organizing Committee for the 2008 Olympic Games.

42. The World Economic Forum 2006 in Davos, Switzerland, for the first time brought together leaders from the world of sport to discuss sport's role in improving the state of the world and to plan new initiatives. The Secretary-General highlighted sport's contributions to development and peace at the event. The sport leaders reaffirmed their commitment to improving the state of the world through sport and agreed to create a communications platform to present Sport for Development and Peace success stories and compile and distribute of evidence on the benefits of participation in sports, studies of best practices, and statistics and facts about the sports industry.

43. The Secretary-General, with his Special Adviser, also met with the leaders of FIFA in January 2006. There was agreement that football has a great capacity as a catalyst to assist United Nations activities, such as fighting poverty, combating HIV/AIDS, promoting peace, and bringing people together. For the 2006 FIFA World Cup in Germany, a joint statement by the Secretary-General and the President of FIFA cited football's potential to improve the world, and an op-ed by the Secretary-General on football's positive powers was carried in 72 newspapers in 42 countries. At the 2006 World Cup, the Secretary-General called the 2010 FIFA

World Cup in South Africa a major opportunity to develop sport in Africa. For the South Africa event, FIFA is setting up the "Win in Africa ... With Africa" programme.

44. During its Presidency of the European Union in the beginning of 2006, Austria promoted Sport for Development and Peace, emphasizing that sport can help meet global challenges such as armed conflict and achieving the Millennium Development Goals.

45. The International Disability in Sport Working Group was formed by representatives from 15 organizations in January 2006 to advance the human rights of people with disabilities relating to sport, monitor the status of these rights worldwide, support research that enhances these rights, and develop sport and physical activity programmes.

46. An ad hoc committee of the General Assembly reached agreement on a draft convention on the rights of people with disabilities, on 25 August 2006. Article 30 of the draft convention provides that States Parties shall take measures to promote participation of people with disabilities in mainstream sporting activities and to disability-specific sporting and recreational activities, and ensure children with disabilities have equal access to participation in recreation and sports, including those activities in school. The draft convention will be presented to the General Assembly for adoption at its sixty-first session.

47. The Group of Friends of Sport for Development and Peace was initiated with the support of the Special Adviser by the Government of Switzerland among Permanent Representatives to the United Nations in New York in January 2005. Co-chaired by the Permanent Representatives of Switzerland and Tunisia, this intergovernmental platform encourages Member States to follow up on the International Year and promote integration of sport into international cooperation and national development policies through the implementation of relevant United Nations resolutions. The open-ended group has expanded to include Permanent Representatives from 25 Member States.

48. With youth as one of the greatest beneficiaries of the effects of sport, the United Nations New York Office of Sport for Development and Peace has organized a series of Youth Leadership Summits to highlight the use of sport as an entry point for mobilizing youth to bolster efforts to achieve the Millennium Development Goals. The Pan-African, Pan-Asian and Latin America and Caribbean Youth Leadership Summits were held in Dakar in June 2004; Hiroshima, Japan, in September 2004; and Belo Horizonte, Brazil, in May 2005, respectively. The second Pan-African Youth Leadership Summit was hosted by Morocco in August 2005. The regional summits culminate in the United Nations Global Youth Leadership Summit in New York at the end of October 2006.

49. The New York Office is highlighting sport's role in combating malaria, and at the request of the Secretary-General helped to organize the United Nations sixtieth Anniversary Concert entitled "United against Malaria" in October 2005 in Geneva. Initiatives in 2006 have included a "Dunk Malaria" event with the Hedge Funds vs. Malaria organization in cooperation with the New York Knicks basketball team, and a press trip to the United Republic of Tanzania organized with the National Association of Black Journalists, the United Nations system and other partners.

50. The fourth World Conference on Women and Sport, held in Kumamoto, Japan, from 11 to 14 May 2006, was organized by the International Working Group for Women and Sport and concluded with the Kumamoto Commitment to Collaboration[3] on realizing gender equality in and through sport.

C. Communications and outreach

51. Internet-based tools, such as the Sport and Development International Platform, available at: www.sportanddev.org and supported by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, provides a common working framework that facilitates international cooperation.

52. The United Nations Sport Bulletin, produced by the New York Office on behalf of the United Nations Communications Group Working Group, provides updates on United Nations sport-related activities. The publication serves as a communication tool for the United Nation system and external partners in Sport for Development and Peace.

D. United Nations activities

53. During 2006, United Nations agencies, funds and programmes have carried out a broad range of activities that have helped build on the momentum of the International Year. Such initiatives are, however, at times ad hoc, informal and isolated, and further steps can more fully integrate sport in the development agenda.

54. The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) seeks to involve well-known sports personalities, including football stars and other FAO Goodwill Ambassadors, in raising awareness and mobilizing public generosity about hunger prevention and alleviation. FAO also works with member countries to organize sporting and cultural events in support of its TeleFood campaign. The campaign has generated close to US$ 19 million in donations and funded more than 2,000 projects in 127 countries.

55. The ILO/Universitas programme published *Beyond the Scoreboard: Youth employment opportunities and skills development in the sports sector*[4] in 2006, a book which examines how youth leadership and skills development can be fostered through sport. The programme has a new initiative with 77 italian academies to review university curricula around decent work and youth employment, using sport as an entry point for youth skills development and training. ILO adopted the theme of women and sport for its 2006 celebration of International Women's Day, and activities included the award ceremony of the International Olympic Committee Women and Sport Trophy.

56. The Italian National Committee for the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) partnered with the Torino Organizing Committee for the XXth Winter Olympic Games and the TIM mobile phone company to raise funds for UNICEF immunization programmes in the Sudan, and a related project sold Italian handmade rag dolls. The initiative raised over 500,000 euros.

[3] Available at www.iwg.gti.org/pdfs/kumamotocommitment.pdf.

[4] Giovanni di Cola, editor, The Brookings Institution Press, Washington, D.C., 2006.

57. UNICEF joined with FIFA during the 2006 World Cup in the Unite for Children, Unite for Peace campaign, which included public service announcements featuring leading football players and a manual for players and coaches designed to combat violence and discrimination, particularly against girls. The National Basketball Association and UNICEF joined forces in support of Unite for Children, Unite against AIDS. The partners launched a multilingual global HIV/AIDS awareness public service announcement featuring 10 star players.

58. The UNDP Small Arms Control Programme in Liberia has implemented a series of Community Arms Collection for Development pilot projects, with soccer an important element. In partnership with Mercy Corps, UNDP facilitated donation of in kind support to aid to 564 soccer clubs in 21 districts in Banda Aceh, Indonesia, as part of a broader effort to rehabilitate the athletic infrastructure badly damaged in the December 2004 tsunami disaster. The Espaces Tadamoune (Spaces of Solidarity) programme by UNDP in Morocco, in partnership with the Maroc Jeunesse Initiative and Development Foundation and the national sports sector, aims to reduce youth crime and unemployment in Casablanca through sports training and counselling, leading to job placements. A UNDP seminar in Rwanda on "Using Sport to Achieve Rwanda's Millennium Development Goals" in July 2006 drew participants from the Government, civil society, sporting federations and other sectors.

59. UNESCO has made its Sector of Social and Human Sciences responsible for the Physical Education and Sport Programmes to better articulate a new sport for peace and social development policy. The Sector organized events in July 2006 during the celebration of the organization's sixtieth anniversary. The Intergovernmental Committee for Physical Education and Sport in 2006 decided to develop a workplan to strengthen its role in the promotion of physical activity and sport. UNESCO reports that as at 1 September 2006 the following countries had ratified, accepted or acceded to the International Convention against Doping in Sport: Australia, Canada, the Cook Islands, Denmark, Iceland, Jamaica, Latvia, Lithuania, Mauritius, Monaco, Nauru, New Zealand, Nigeria, Norway, the Seychelles, Sweden, and the United Kingdom.

60. UNHCR launched the "ninemillion.org" campaign in July 2006 to assist the 9 million refugee children worldwide through education and sports activities with support from corporate partners, including Nike and Microsoft. Nike also helped UNHCR to create volleyball uniforms adhere to the traditional dress code and allow freedom of movement for Somali girls in three refugee camps in northern Kenya.

61. The United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) and the International Association of Sports and Leisure Facilities are preparing a plan of action to promote recreation facilities worldwide, especially in developing countries. In Nairobi, a UN-Habitat Safer Public Space campaign uses sport to help young people to gain access to the city's public open space. UN-Habitat and the United Nations Federal Credit Union have launched the Kilimanjaro Initiative, an annual mountain climb to enhance self-esteem among youth from slums in Dar es Salaam and Nairobi.

62. The United Nations Office of Drug and Crime and the Qatar National Olympic Committee have set up the Global Sport Fund against Drugs. The fund will give grants, provided by Qatar, to NGOs worldwide to sponsor events, youth camps and exhibitions and to hold training seminars for coaches and young people.

63. United Nations Volunteers joined with the Turin 2006 Non-Profit Coordination and Ideal Solidale to host a forum on volunteerism and promotion of human rights during the 2006 Winter Olympic Games. More than 20,000 volunteers were part of the Volunteer Programme.

64. The World Health Organization (WHO) fourth International Workshop on Physical Activity and Public Health in January 2006 aimed to increase countries' capacity to raise awareness about the importance of physical activity and increase participation in physical activities and "sport for all". The 2005 WHO global report *Preventing chronic disease: a vital investment*[5] highlights physical inactivity as a major health-risk factor.

V. Partnerships and resource mobilization

65. The 2003 report of the United Nations Inter-Agency Task Force on Sport for Development and Peace[1] recommended that "programmes supporting Sport for Development and Peace need greater attention and resources by Governments and the United Nations system". As noted above, some Governments face challenges in increasing capacity of sport initiatives and finding resources for that priority.

66. The General Assembly in its resolution 60/9, invites Member States, the United Nations system, international sport bodies and sport-related organizations to promote implementation of partnership initiatives and development projects. Partnerships have proven a useful approach for advancing and coordinating Sport for Development and Peace activities and can be a tool for resource mobilization. Partnerships can also lay the groundwork for cost-effective integration of Sport for Development and Peace into national development policies and programmes.

67. United Nations agencies, funds and programmes are increasingly forging partnerships for sport-related initiatives. The International Year created greater awareness of the value of such partnerships and their mutually beneficial synergy, and the Special Adviser's Office of Sport for Development and Peace has forged partnerships with Governments and a number of private sector organizations and NGOs.

68. By resolution 60/9, the General Assembly invited Member States to provide voluntary contributions to ensure adequate execution of and follow-up to the activities being implemented by the Special Adviser's Office of Sport for Development and Peace. In that regard, the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation has supported the work of the Geneva Office, and UNDP has supported the New York Office. A trust fund is being established with the assistance of UNDP to sustain the work of both offices through voluntary contributions.

[5] Available at http://www.who.int/chp/chronic_disease_report/en/.

VI. United Nations Action Plan on Sport for Development and Peace

69. The international community is committed to the Millennium Declaration and to achieving the Millennium Development Goals by 2015, and the International Year demonstrated the power of sport in its many dimensions and worldwide appeal to make significant contributions to development and peace. The Action Plan presents a framework to enable the United Nations system, Member States, the world of sport and other partners to build on the achievements of the Year. It is a strategy to better integrate sport into the development agenda; incorporate sport in programmes for health, education, development and peace; utilize sport as a tool to achieve the Millennium Development Goals; and focus greater attention and resources on Sport for Development and Peace.

70. Participation in sport is recognized as a human right, and "sport for all" should be the basis for the systematic use of Sport for Development and Peace. Stakeholders are urged to establish clear linkages between the opportunity to participate in sport and the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals and the broader goals of sustainable development and peace.

Time frame

71. Maintaining the momentum generated by the International Year is vital, and the Action Plan therefore covers the next three years. The aim is to encourage the United Nations and its partners to move from awareness to greater implementation and action.

Lines of action

72. All stakeholders are urged to meet the challenges below and work along these lines of action to integrate Sport for Development and Peace in the development agenda at every level:

1. Global framework for Sport for Development and Peace

Challenge: Globally agreed development goals provide a common denominator and common agenda for stakeholders to work together and contribute towards advancing a global framework for Sport for Development and Peace.

Action: Enhance cooperation and coordination to create a common vision of the role of sport in the service of development and peace, to establish a knowledge network, define priorities and further raise awareness. Develop and promote exemplary Sport for Development and Peace initiatives where the mainstreaming and replication will provide the most benefit to the achievement of development objectives.

2. Policy development

Challenge: Sport for Development and Peace strategies need to be explicitly incorporated into national and international development plans and policies and vice versa, with enhanced cooperation and coordination among all stakeholders.

Action: Promote and support the systematic integration and mainstreaming of Sport for Development and Peace as an instrument in development plans and policies.

Promote the principle of "sport for all" and develop inclusive sports policies. Strengthen and invest in sport and physical education and integrate sport, physical activity and play in public health and other relevant policies.

3. Resource mobilization

Challenge: Scaling up of Sport for Development and Peace initiatives for the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals and other development objectives requires resource mobilization and creative partnerships.

Action: Enhance coordination to promote innovative funding mechanisms and multi-stakeholder arrangements on all levels, including the engagement of sport organizations, civil society, athletes, and the private sector.

4. Evidence of impact

Challenge: Mainstreaming Sport for Development and Peace in national and international programmes and policies requires comprehensive monitoring and evaluation.

Action: Develop and promote common evaluation and monitoring tools, indicators and benchmarks based on commonly agreed standards.

Action points

73. The following action points are aimed at specific sectors and stakeholders to maximize the positive impact of sport.

Member States

74. Responsibility for the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals rests first and foremost with Governments. The Action Plan aims to help to realize the full potential of sport as a powerful, cost-effective way of supporting Member States in the attainment of the MDGs by 2015 and the broader goals of sustainable development and lasting peace.

- Governments are encouraged to: implement the principle of "sport for all" through inclusive and coherent legislation and policies, including measures to promote participation of people with disabilities; involve all stakeholders in their coordination and implementation; establish a viable sport sector that is managed by professionals and experts trained in Sport for Development and Peace; strengthen and invest in sport and physical education in schools and educational systems; create an effective support system for programmes preventing negative influences in sport; and integrate sport, physical activity and play in public health and other relevant policies as a national priority.
- The Group of Friends of Sport for Development and Peace is encouraged to continue to motivate Member States to integrate sport in their international cooperation and development policies through implementation of relevant United Nations resolutions. The Group is encouraged to share national experiences and best practices, reach out to the private sector and propose research and development initiatives for the United Nations system in joint ventures with the private sector and other partners.

- Relevant Government agencies are encouraged to value investment in sport development and infrastructure, including the basic institutions of sport, playing areas, skilled volunteers and provision of funds to assist local initiatives. Governments are also encouraged to incorporate sport in Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers.

- Governments and national organizations are encouraged to support young talented athletes to realize their full potential and protect them from exploitation. Athletes who compete at the international level help to foster national unity, promote intercultural dialogue, inspire younger generations to excel and create a sense of national pride.

- Governments are encouraged to engage in international initiatives and partnerships to advance Sport for Development and Peace.

- Governments are encouraged to initiate sport programmes to promote gender equality and the empowerment of women.

- The continued establishment and development of sport-related national focal points, committees, and other multi-stakeholder mechanisms at the national level for sustainable initiatives are encouraged. National focal points identified during the Year and afterwards by their Government are requested to collaborate with the Special Adviser to provide a framework within which national, regional and international contacts and coordination may be fostered.

- National committees are encouraged to engage and include a broad range of country-level actors, ensuring gender balance, including: local governments, national Olympic committees, sports federations and clubs, athletes, the private sector, interested academic circles, United Nations country teams and the NGO community.

The United Nations system

75. The United Nations system is increasingly including sport in its programming and advocacy. New efforts are called for, however, to realize sport's full potential to contribute to health, education, development and peace.

- Sport should be incorporated into United Nations country programmes where appropriate, both in sport-specific activities and to strengthen other programmes, and on a similar basis into common country assessments and United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks, to establish a common Sport for Development and Peace framework to utilize sport effectively in the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals.

- Partnerships within the United Nations system may be facilitated by the United Nations Communications Group Working Group, as a means to provide United Nations system-wide coherence and collaboration and provide a platform for external partners to engage with the United Nations system.

- United Nations agencies, funds, and programmes are encouraged to integrate sport and physical education into their policies and long-term plans.

- The United Nations system is encouraged to seek new and innovative ways to use sport for communication and social mobilization at the international, national and local levels.

National and international stakeholders

76. Stakeholders across a broad spectrum are advancing Sport for Development and Peace, and are called upon to expand their activities and increase their cooperation.

- The Sport for Development and Peace International Working Group is encouraged to continue to articulate and promote the adoption of policy recommendations that support the integration of sport into national and international development strategies and programmes.
- All stakeholders, including media, academia, civil society, and sport organizations, are encouraged to support capacity-building and education programmes to enhance awareness of best practices in the use of Sport for Development and Peace and the relationship between sport and its use as a development and peacebuilding tool.
- **Bilateral development agencies** are called upon to integrate sport in development cooperation policies and programmes; and implement and evaluate projects and programmes.
- **Sport organizations** are urged to integrate and implement gender mainstreaming and sustainable development principles in their policies, programmes and projects. Local and regional sport organizations need to better advocate, organize and coordinate sport events, share resources, provide logistical and moral support and ensure greater participation.
- **Athletes** are encouraged to act as role models and use their influence and experience to advocate for development and peace.
- **Health organizations** should promote use of sport to raise the quality of life, reduce expenditure on health services and increase productivity.
- **Armed forces** are encouraged to use sport to promote friendship and for building peace and security.
- **Media** are encouraged to adopt editorial strategies that ensure the coverage of social and political aspects of sport; train journalists; and raise awareness of the achievements and potential of Sport for Development and Peace.
- **NGOs** are encouraged to implement projects that demonstrate the potential of Sport for Development and Peace; transfer experience and knowledge; engage other members of civil society; support the work of the national focal points or committees; improve channels of communication among groups active in sport for development; and organize or host field visits and media trips to promote their work.
- **Private sector sports companies and sports industry organizations** are encouraged to take a lead role in Sport for Development and Peace policy dialogues; raise the awareness of international actors and other partners; strengthen networks and enhance coordination; and carry out and evaluate projects and programmes. They are requested to address social and environmental impacts of operations and across supply chains; support and invest in sport-based development activities; bolster partnerships and inform the public about the values of sport; and incorporate the theme of "development through sport and physical education" at conferences and other events.

- **Academic and research institutions**, including the United Nations University, are encouraged to develop collaborative agendas on Sport for Development and Peace, including the documentation, analysis and validation of experiences, and development of instruction, monitoring and evaluation methods and instruments.

- **Internet platforms**: stakeholders are encouraged to refer to websites such as the website of the Special Adviser (www.un/org/sport2005), which serve as communication tools and provide a common framework that facilitates international cooperation. Stakeholders are encouraged to support and contribute to these essential platforms.

Strategic partnerships and resource mobilization

77. *Programme implementation*: Many Sport for Development and Peace projects within the United Nations system are based on innovative partnerships. To advance these:

- Planning for development programmes is encouraged to include sport organizations, and development organizations and Governments are encouraged to utilize Sport for Development and Peace policies.

- Government, sport organizations, and implementing organizations in development are encouraged to strengthen ties.

78. *Resource mobilization*: Partnerships provide a strategic approach to resource mobilization, both for and through sport. Resources can be mobilized by engaging sport organizations and athletes, and through partnerships with the private sector.

- Stakeholders are encouraged to identify appropriate partners in the field of development and peace and incorporate sport programmes into programming. Governments, the United Nation system and partners, including the private sector, sport organizations and civil society are urged to make available resources for Sport for Development and Peace initiatives.

79. *Advocacy*: Partnering with the world of sport provides innovative ways to communicate key development and peace messages to diverse groups and to effectively mobilize society around vital issues through sport.

80. Partnerships within the United Nations system can be facilitated by the United Nations Communications Group Working Group as a means to build United Nations system-wide coherence and collaboration and provide a platform for external partners to engage with the United Nations system.

81. National committees and Governments are encouraged to facilitate partnerships among sport organizations, NGOs, media, the private sector, research institutions, athletes, the armed forces and other stakeholders.

Peacebuilding through sport

82. Sport has the power to bring people together, bridge differences, and promote communication and understanding. Nonetheless, sport alone cannot foster enduring peace. Supporting factors such as an interest in peace among different groups, media involvement, strong civil society participation and dedication by sport organizations are needed for sport to be an effective vehicle of peace.

- Governments, the United Nations system, and sport organizations are encouraged to use sport as a means to build peace through friendly competitions, support for advocacy campaigns and community programmes, and recognition of prominent athletes as positive role models.

- Parties with a history of conflict are encouraged to demonstrate positive interest in peacebuilding initiatives, the media are encouraged to disseminate information on sport activities for peace, and civil society and sport organizations are encouraged to be proactive in organizing peacebuilding initiatives through sport.

- Research organizations and academia are requested to study the use of sport as a vehicle of peace and present findings to encourage peacebuilding through sport.

Coordination through the offices of the Special Adviser

83. Since his appointment, the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Sport for Development and Peace and his Office of Sport for Development and Peace have made significant contributions towards the establishment of a common framework that draws together sport-related initiatives and partners across sectors. The United Nations Communications Group Working Group, the Group of Friends, the Sport for Development and Peace International Working Group and other actors within the institutional framework for Sport for Development and Peace play an important role in those efforts.

- It is recommended that the Special Adviser continue his leadership role in fostering partnerships between the world of sport and the development community and promoting a common framework in the United Nations system and with Member States and partners.

- Bearing in mind General Assembly resolution 60/9, Member States are urged to provide voluntary contributions to the United Nations Office of Sport for Development and Peace, in Geneva and in New York.

- The various actors within the institutional framework for Sport for Development and Peace are encouraged to continue to generate support, both in terms of priority and resources, for such activities among the United Nations system, Governments and sport-related organizations.

- The Special Adviser is encouraged to continue to coordinate the collection of information on United Nation sports initiatives, publish news on a regular basis, and support information-sharing on the Internet and other vehicles.

- The Special Adviser is encouraged to continue to support the Secretary-General and the United Nations Secretariat in operational activities to use sport as a tool for development and peace.

- Governments, sports federations, intergovernmental organization, NGOs, the private sector and others are encouraged to cooperate with the Office of Sport for Development and Peace, the United Nations Communications Group Working Group, the Group of Friends and other actors within the institutional framework.